

Amendments to the Claims: This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A tee for mounting an instrument in a pipe system, said tee comprising a body member having at least one inlet having an inlet axis, and at least one outlet having an outlet axis, the inlet and outlet defining for providing a flow path through the body, and a concave surface that forms a cup in fluid communication with said flow path for providing fluid access to the instrument, the tee having a central axis that extends from a bottom of the cup through a non-flow-bearing instrument-mounting opening at a top of the tee, at least one of the inlet or the outlet positioned offset relative ~~to a~~ to the central axis ~~of the cup~~ such that axis of the inlet or outlet that is offset does not intersect with the central axis.
2. (Original) The tee of claim 1, wherein the inlet and the outlet are coaxial with one another along a flow path axis.
3. (Original) The tee of claim 2, wherein the central axis of the cup is located on a plane that is perpendicular to the flow path axis.
4. (Currently Amended) The tee of claim 1, wherein the outlet ~~is vertically offset from~~ axis intersects with the cup in a first location having a first spacing from the bottom of the cup and the inlet axis intersects with the cup in a second location having a second spacing from the bottom of the cup, wherein there is a difference between the first spacing and the second spacing.
5. (Currently Amended) The tee of claim 4, further comprising an instrument mounted in the instrument mounting opening, the instrument extending along the central axis to a predetermined instrument level, wherein the outlet is vertically offset difference between the first spacing and the second spacing is sufficient ~~sufficiently~~ to provide an operating fluid level in the cup that is at least as high as the predetermined instrument level ~~a level of fluid required for contact with a portion of the instrument.~~
6. (Original) The tee of claim 1, wherein the cup has at least a portion having a circular cross section and at least one of the inlet or the outlet is tangential to the circular cross section.

7. (Original) The tee of claim 6, wherein both the inlet and the outlet are tangential to the circular cross section.

8. (Original) The tee of claim 7, wherein the inlet forms a first tangent and the outlet forms a second tangent parallel to the first tangent.

9. (Original) The tee of claim 8, wherein the first tangent is located on an opposite side of the circular cross section from the second tangent.

10. (Original) The tee of claim 1, wherein the body member has a first planar side perpendicular to the inlet, the inlet comprising a first hole in the first planar side and a first conduit attached to the first planar side in communication with the first hole.

11. (Original) The tee of claim 10, wherein the body member has a second planar side opposite the first planar side and perpendicular to the outlet, the outlet comprising a second hole in the second planar side and a second conduit attached to the second planar side in communication with the second hole.

12. (Original) The tee of claim 11, wherein the body member comprises a length of cylindrical bar stock having had material removed to form the first planar side, the second planar side, the cup, the first hole, and the second hole, and in which the first conduit and second conduit are attached to the first planar side and the second planar side, respectively.

13. (Original) The tee of claim 1, wherein the cup has a first effective diameter and the inlet and outlet each have an effective diameter that is smaller than the first effective diameter.

14. (Original) The tee of claim 13, wherein the inlet effective diameter is equal to the outlet effective diameter.

15. (Currently Amended) A tee for mounting an instrument in a pipe system, said tee comprising a body member having at least one inlet having an inlet axis, and at least one outlet having an outlet axis, the inlet and outlet defining ~~for providing~~ a flow path through the body, and a concave surface that forms a cup in fluid communication with said flow path for providing fluid access to the instrument, the tee having a central axis that extends from a

bottom of the cup through a non-flow-bearing instrument-mounting opening at a top of the tee, the outlet axis intersecting with the cup in a first location having a first spacing from the bottom of the cup and the inlet axis intersecting with the cup in a second location having a second spacing from the bottom of the cup, wherein there is a difference between the first spacing and the second spacing wherein the inlet is vertically offset from the outlet.

16. (Currently Amended) The tee of claim 15, wherein the inlet is located tangential to a ~~relatively lower~~ cross-section of the cup relatively closer to the bottom of the cup, and the outlet is located tangential to a ~~relatively higher~~ cross-section of the cup relatively farther from the bottom of the cup.

17. (Original) The tee of claim 15, wherein the cup has a first effective diameter and the inlet and outlet each have an effective diameter that is smaller than the first effective diameter.

18. (Currently Amended) A piping system comprising one or more instrument tees, each instrument tee comprising a body member having an inlet having an inlet axis, and an outlet having an outlet axis, ~~the inlet and outlet defining that form~~ a flow path through the body member, and a concave surface that forms a cup in fluid communication with said flow path for providing fluid access to an instrument, the tee having a central axis that extends from a bottom of the cup through a non-flow-bearing instrument-mounting opening at a top of the tee, the outlet axis intersecting with the cup in a first location having a first spacing from the bottom of the cup and the inlet axis intersecting with the cup in a second location having a second spacing from the bottom of the cup, wherein (a) at least one of the inlet or the outlet is positioned offset relative ~~to a~~ to the central axis of the cup such that axis of the inlet or outlet that is offset does not intersect with the central axis, (b) ~~the outlet of the instrument tee is vertically offset relative to the inlet~~ there is a difference between the first spacing and the second spacing, or (c) a combination of (a) and (b).

19. (New) The system of claim 18, wherein at least one instrument tee is mounted in a ~~rotated~~ position such that the central axis of the cup is aligned at an angle in a range of 0 to 90 degrees from a vertical axis, wherein the vertical axis is defined as an axis that intersects with the central axis and that is perpendicular to a series of fluid surface planes inherently defined whenever fluid is present in the cup.

20. (New) The system of claim 18, wherein the piping system comprises a piping system for use in a pharmaceutical or biotech operation.